

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2014**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Lombardo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Huntington, Leone, Rowe, and Mayor Lombardo. Abel was absent due to illness.

Staff Present: Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Administrative Services Director Yakimow, Police Captain Mondary, Town Attorney Laymon, and Town Clerk Copeland

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lombardo.

The Invocation was led by Bishop Ralph Clinger, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

PRESENTATIONS

1. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department- Welcome Captain Dale Mondary and Introduction of Sergeants.

Mayor Lombardo introduced Dale Mondary, San Bernardino County Sheriff Captain, now serving the Morongo Basin.

Captain Mondary introduced San Bernardino County Sheriffs Sergeants, Matt Yost and Robert Warrick who are newly assigned to the Morongo Basin area.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Leone moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Town Council Meeting of May 20, 2014. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a roll call vote with Council Member Abel absent.

AYES: Council Members Huntington, Leone, Rowe and Mayor Lombardo
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Council Member Abel

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Waive** further reading of all ordinances and read by title only
3. **Receive and file** the monthly Statistical Fire Department Reports for the month of April 2014.

- 4. **Reject** one claim filed against the Town of Yucca Valley submitted on April 30, 2014 by Patricia Jean Wimbush
- 5. **Adopt** Resolution 14-13:
 - 1. Preliminarily approving the engineering reports for the existing assessment districts and directing the filing of such reports with the Town Clerk.
 - 2. Setting the date for conducting a public hearing for June 23, 2014 at 6 p.m. in the Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, CA 92284 pursuant to California Streets and Highways Code Sections 22552 and 22553 and Government Code Section 53753.5, to consider the levy of annual assessments upon real property.
- 6. **Accept** Town Project No. 8327- SR62 Median and Sidewalk Improvement Project as substantially complete, authorize staff to file the Notice of Completion, authorize the reduction of the Faithful Performance Bond to 10%, and direct staff to retain the Labor and Material Bond for six (6) months.
- 7. **Receive and file** the FY 2013-14 Third Quarter Budget Report
- 8. **Receive and file** the Treasurer’s Report for the Third Quarter of FY 2013-14
- 9. **Receive and file** the AB1234 Reporting Requirement Schedule for the month of April 2014
- 10. **Ratify** the Payroll Register total of \$136,902.48 dated April 25, 2014.
Ratify Warrant Register total of \$72,994.78 for checks dated May 1, 2014.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comment for items on the Consent Agenda. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

Council Member Leone commented on the meetings he attended as listed on the AB1234 monthly report. (Item 9)

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington commented on surplus funds from the completed TCRP project. (Item 6)

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to approve consent agenda items 2-10. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on roll call vote.

AYES: Council Members Huntington, Leone, Rowe and Mayor Lombardo
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Council Member Abel

PUBLIC HEARING

11. FY 2014-16 Proposed Budget Public Hearing

Administrative Services Director Yakimow presented the staff report for the FY 2014-16 Proposed Budget, including an overview of the complete budget document developed with the Town Council's guiding principles. The proposed community partnership funding includes an additional allocation to Reach Out Morongo Basin of \$7,500 for both FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16.

Mayor Lombardo opened the public hearing.

Ron Cohen, Yucca Valley commented that he will be meeting with Town staff regarding budget recommendations. Cohen also stated he is in favor of increasing the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) in Yucca Valley as an additional revenue source.

Robin Schlosser, Reach Out Morongo Basin thanked the Town Council for the support of the organization's programming.

Lori Herbel, Yucca Valley spoke favorably of the Hi Desert Nature Museum and would like the Town Council to consider raising the Museum's budget by \$70,000.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley commented on the Town's solar energy use and expects that the electricity bills to be lowered because of it. Sturges continued by requested to see a cash value of the Town's reserves and is against using reserves for infrastructure. Sturges suggested pulling the stated 10 percent for infrastructure off the top and then build the budget with what is remaining.

With no other members of the public wishing to speak, Mayor Lombardo closed the public hearing.

Mayor Lombardo commented favorably of public comment suggesting pulling an infrastructure allocation off the top. Also, sees the need to increase the TOT rate; however the increased revenue would not meet the required amount needed for infrastructure.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle reminded the Town Council TOT revenue is a General Fund revenue, therefore is not considered restricted for a single use.

Council Member Leone stated is in favor of increasing the TOT rate and the benefits the increased revenue may have on the General Fund, especially tourism type activity.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that past conversations regarding increasing the TOT tax rate and the difficulty of a seeking revenue measure while the wastewater project is still

pending and the taxpayer costs are unknown. A revenue measure requires an extensive outreach program and should be timed accordingly. There is not adequate time to structure a campaign for the November ballot.

Mayor Lombardo stated he understands it is critical for Hi Desert Water District (HDWD) to be able to move forward with the sewer project.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington spoke in agreement with Stueckle, the Town should not be in voter competition with HDWD.

Mayor Lombardo stated that the Town Council has reviewed the budget document and has worked closely with Town Staff to create a working document for the upcoming years.

Council Member Rowe commented that the hotel proprietors should be considered before a TOT rate discussion occurs.

Mayor Lombardo stated he supports the museum; however the revenues need to match what they were during the times referenced during public comment in order to sustain an increased operating level.

Council Member Leone agrees that the HDWD has a big job ahead and though he is in favor of an increase to the TOT rate, he does not want to sabotage HDWD's efforts.

Council Member Rowe moved to:

- Receive and file the staff presentation of the proposed budget for the General and Special Revenue funds for fiscal years 2014-16.
- Review the proposed Authorized Position Listing for fiscal year 2014-16 and provide comment or direction as appropriate.
- Review and accept the staff recommendation of allocating final revenues in excess of expenditures in an amount ranging from \$100,000 - \$130,000 in 2014-15 and \$130,000 - \$150,000 in 2015-16 to be budgeted for use in meeting a portion of the Town's infrastructure deficit.
- Direct staff to incorporate the proposed changes into the Town's final proposed budget plan for fiscal years 2014-16, and return a proposed balanced budget for adoption with the implementing resolutions on June 3, 2014.

Mayor Pro Tem seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Council Members Huntington, Leone, Rowe and Mayor Lombardo
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Council Member Abel

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

12. SR 62, Camino del Cielo to Acoma, Signal Synchronization Project – Town Project No. 8028; Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant; Federal Project No. CMLN 5466(019); Approval of Plans and Specifications: Authorization to Bid for Construction

Town Project Engineer Qishta presented the staff report giving an overview of the Signal Synchronization project. The Town received an allocation of \$218,312 in CMAQ funds for the synchronization of the traffic signals on SR 62 between Camino del Cielo and Acoma Trail. Because CMAQ funds are federal financial resources, competitive bidding for the expenditure is required.

The SR 62 traffic signals included in this project are at the corners of Camino del Cielo, Kickapoo Trail, Pioneertown Road/Deer Trail and Acoma Trail. Once in place, the future Church Street and Inca Trail signals will also be synchronized using other CMAQ grant funds.

For Phase 2, at the completion of this project, the Town will request that San Bernardino Associated Government use grant allocations to continue the synchronization of the remaining SR 62 traffic control signals in Yucca Valley.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

Council Member Leone spoke favorably of the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington inquired on the time frame for Phase 2.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-14 approving the plans and specifications for Project No. 8028, and authorize the Town Clerk to advertise and receive bids. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a roll call vote.

- AYES:** Council Members Huntington, Leone, Rowe and Mayor Lombardo
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** Council Member Abel

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None stated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments for items not on the agenda.

Lori Herbel, Yucca Valley spoke favorably of animal control staff with their expertise and compassion to the animals.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley commented on the timing of HDWD ballots and also commented on the proceedings at a recent Planning Commission meeting.

Fritz Koenig, Yucca Valley spoke of potential candidates for the upcoming November election and also commented on a recent discussion held at a Planning Commission meeting regarding Home Occupancy Permits.

Terry Anderson, Yucca Valley spoke of water flow during recent rains in his Story Park neighborhood and requested an asphalt berm be placed across the front of two properties to divert the water.

Sarann Graham, Yucca Valley spoke of a homeless census and the recruitment process for those wishing to assist. Graham also reminded those in attendance of upcoming outreach HDWD is conducting regarding the wastewater project.

With no other members of the public wishing to speak, Mayor Lombardo closed public comments.

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle commented on the inquiry received from Mr. Anderson. Town staff will be following up with him.

Administrative Services Director Yakimow reminded the Town Council of the upcoming Grubstake Days events and the new parade route along Onaga Trail.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

13. Council Member Leone welcomed Captain Mondary and the new sergeants. Leone also commended Animal Control staff for their services and commitment to the community. Reminded everyone to stay safe over the busy weekend.
14. Council Member Rowe thanked the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in a recent missing child case and also thanked staff for the work put into the staff reports and budget document this evening.

15. Mayor Pro Tem Huntington thanked Yakimow and Cisneros for their assistance through the budget process and welcomed Mondary and sergeants. Huntington continued by giving a brief update on SB270 regarding the limit of single use or limited use plastic bags. Only five percent of these plastic bags are turned in for recycling.
16. Mayor Lombardo also welcomed Captain Mondary and Sergeants Yost and Warrick.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., in the Yucca Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

CLOSED SESSION

1. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**
2. **Public Employee Appointment / Conference with Labor Negotiator (One Matter)**

Mayor Lombardo opened public comment on closed session items. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

Mayor Lombardo adjourned to closed session at 7:50 p.m.

REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION - ADJOURNMENT

Town Attorney Laymon reported that closed session adjourned at 8:20 p.m. with no reportable action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Town Clerk